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INTER-PARTY STRIFE IN TURKEY

I. Rising political tension in Turkey, resulting primarily from government repression of opposition activities, currently endangers political stability.

A. The incumbent Democratic Party of Prime Minister Menderes, troubled by its diminishing popular support, is restricting the activities of the major opposition Republican People's Party, led by elder statesmen and respected hero of the War

of Independence. 74 year-old Ismet Inonu. *at one time president.*

The opposition has been
B. Emboldened by its increasing popularity and by the regime's sensitivity to criticism, *an* opposition leaders are flouting Government restrictions in *an* effort to attract more popular support and apparently to goad the government into taking popularly offensive repressive measures.

1. During a recent political tour in western Turkey by *opposition* Republican leaders, clashes occurred between security forces, including both police and military, and Republican supporters.

2. In one instance the gendarmerie used tear gas and truncheons to disperse opposition demonstrators.

3. In another the Republican leaders were stoned by a mob of Democratic partisans.

4. Inonu's visit to the major port city of Izmir was also marked by violent clashes. An opposition newspaper plant

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was wrecked and a bomb exploded near the local Democratic Party headquarters.

C. The Minister of the Interior Namik Gedik, recently a visitor to this country, took personal charge of the unsuccessful efforts to reduce the effectiveness of the Inonu tour.

II. Inonu's party claims that the incidents of violence resulted from a plot determined by President Bayar and Interior Minister Gedik to have Inonu lynched by "indignant citizens."

A. The Embassy comments that such charges are typical of the wild swings in which Turkish political parties are prone to engage.

B. [REDACTED] the Embassy is alarmed at RPP's readiness to push matters to hazardous limits.

III. The Turkish Minister of Defense Etem Menderes, who is unrelated to Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, claims that if the Democratic regime continues its present repressive tendencies, military leaders may intervene.

A. There is speculation that the RPP may be banned.

IV. Both parties are probably anticipating US reaction with great interest.

A. The RPP in particular may interpret American inaction as tacit support of the Democratic policy of repression.

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